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Sino-Soviet Purchases of Ion Exchange Resins

1. Attention should be drawn to the fact that during the past 18 months Sino-Soviet Bloc countries have purchased significant quantities of ion-exchange resins of types suitable for the concentration of uranium ore by the resin in pulp process, a process employed in the USSR, and for the purification of water for nuclear power and propulsion reactors. Western-made resins are believed to be of higher quality than those made in the Bloc and their employment could lead to greater efficiency and increased outputs in the Sino-Soviet nuclear program. These resins have industrial applications, however, and it is not known if the ones purchased from non-Bloc firms are in fact intended for use in nuclear industries.

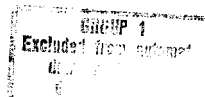
2. For many years the US held a virtual monopoly on the technology required for the manufacture of high quality ion exchange resins and their export to the Sino-Soviet Bloc was effectively blocked by unilateral export controls. In recent years, firms from Japan, West Germany, Italy, France, and the UK have begun to manufacture high quality resins and to ship them to Bloc nations; US control, consequently, is no longer fully effective.

3. A wide range of ion exchange resins is produced by the USSR and its European satellites, particularly East Germany. Information is scarce as to the level of production of each type in each country. In the USSR resins are in short supply and expansion of production has been beset with difficulties and delays. Analysis of East German resins revealed them to be of inferior quality.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied